

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-56 (Canceled).

57 (Currently Amended). A tool system comprising

a trocar instrument including a handle with a finger gripping surface that includes a recess interrupting continuity of the finger gripping surface,

a cannula instrument including a bore sized to accommodate the trocar instrument to form a composite instrument comprising a cannula and a trocar inserted into the cannula, the composite instrument including a composite handle, the cannula instrument including a handle with a finger gripping surface that, when the composite instrument is formed, nests within the recess to fill the interruption and form a continuous composite finger gripping surface for the composite instrument comprising the finger gripping surface of the trocar instrument resting in an adjacent and generally coplanar relationship with the finger gripping surface of the cannula instrument sized and configured to be grasped for grasping by a hand to transmit rotational and/or longitudinal forces to the composite instrument sufficient to advance the composite instrument through tissue and/or bone, the composite handle comprising a first portion coupled to the trocar and a second portion coupled to the cannula, the first portion being separable from the second portion in response to withdrawal of the trocar from the cannula, the second portion having a size that is less than the size of the first portion.

58 to 64 (Canceled)

65 (Currently Amended). A tool system ~~as in~~ according to claim 57

wherein the composite handle is adapted, in use, to receive a striking force.

66 to 68 (Canceled).

69 (Currently Amended). A tool system ~~as in~~ according to claim ~~67~~ 57

wherein the ~~first handle~~ finger gripping surface of the trocar instrument includes a first securing element in the recess, and

wherein the ~~second handle~~ finger gripping surface of the cannula instrument includes a second securing element, ~~and wherein the first securing element engages~~ sized and configured to engage the second securing element when the composite ~~handle~~ instrument is formed to prevent independent rotation of the ~~first trocar~~ and ~~second cannula~~ instruments.

70 (Currently Amended). A tool ~~system as in~~ according to claim 67 69

wherein at least one of the first and second securing elements is includes a groove.

71 (Currently Amended). A tool ~~system as in~~ according to claim 67 69

wherein at least one of the first and second securing elements is includes a key for mating with a groove.

72 to 80 (Canceled).

81 (New). A surgical tool system comprising

a first functional instrument including a handle with a finger gripping surface that includes a recess interrupting continuity of the finger gripping surface,

a second functional instrument including a bore sized to accommodate the first functional instrument to form a composite instrument, the second functional instrument including a handle with a finger gripping surface that, when the composite instrument is formed, nests within the recess to fill the interruption and form a continuous composite finger gripping surface for the composite instrument comprising the finger gripping surface of the first functional instrument resting in an adjacent and generally coplanar relationship with the finger gripping surface of the second functional instrument for grasping by a hand to transmit rotational and/or longitudinal forces to the composite instrument.

82 (New). A surgical tool system according to claim 81

wherein the finger gripping surface of the first functional instrument includes a first securing element in the recess, and

wherein the finger gripping surface of the second functional instrument includes a second securing element sized and configured to engage the second securing element when the composite instrument is formed to prevent independent rotation of the first and second functional instruments.

83 (New). A surgical tool system according to claim 82

wherein at least one of the first and second securing elements includes a groove.

84 (New). A surgical tool system according to claim 82

wherein at least one of the first and second securing elements includes a key for mating with a groove.